

many years, the Commonwealth of Virginia has seriously been considering the potential positive impact that Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) development off Virginia's coast would have on the Commonwealth. In fact, there has been wide support for environmentally responsible energy production by the Governor of Virginia, the Virginia General Assembly and by many local governments in the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has made it clear that they want to access their energy resources. I believe that we should access these resources and we can do it while being environmentally responsible. Therefore, I rise today, with the majority of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, to introduce the "Virginia Access to Energy Act," to give the Commonwealth access to these energy supplies. This legislation would start energy production off of Virginia's coast based on the Department of Interior's own proposal. This legislation simply requires that the Department of Interior proceed with their proposed Virginia lease sale no later than one year after passage of this legislation.

Passage of this legislation and development of VA's OCS will significantly boost the economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It has been estimated by the U.S. Department of Interior that Virginia's OCS has 130 million barrels of recoverable oil and 1.14 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas. This translates into a significant boost to the economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In fact, some estimates have shown that development of Virginia's OCS will create 2,578 full-time equivalent positions on an annual basis, induce capital investment of \$7.84 billion, yield \$644 million in direct and indirect payroll, and result in \$271 million in state and local taxes. While exploration activities alone will infuse the Virginia economy with a significant amount of new capital, this legislation will also authorize any qualified revenues generated by the lease sales to be shared between the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, the legislation sets up revenue-sharing for the Commonwealth for any future lease sales off of Virginia's coast.

My legislation, the Virginia Access to Energy Act, is an important component to any long-term strategy to reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil. This legislation ensures that Virginia has every tool available to access its energy supplies, while at the same time creating thousands of jobs for Virginians and infusing the Commonwealth with new capital growth. I urge Congress to pass this legislation to allow Virginia to move towards a path of energy independence.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,251,174,516,308.48.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,605,505,817,922.70 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### PASSING OF FORMER REP. JOHN ADLER

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a dear friend and colleague, former Congressman John Adler. It was truly an honor and a privilege to serve with John during the 111th Congress, where we worked together on legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Employee Free Choice Act. John always put the interests of his constituents first, and I can confidently say that the people of New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District were privileged to have a representative as dedicated and committed to his job as John.

John and I also shared a particular interest in Veteran's issues. As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he worked tirelessly to ensure that our Nation's veterans received the benefits they deserved as a result of their tremendous sacrifice and service to this country. As a veteran myself, I take particular pride in saluting John's accomplishments in this field.

Again, I join with my colleagues in expressing my sincerest condolences on the passing of Congressman Adler. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shelley, and his four sons. I hope that my colleagues will take this time to reflect on his life and his work, and may he serve as an example to all of us of a life well lived.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUSAN BENDER

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek Congressional recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of Susan Bender. Over the course of her almost 40-year professional career with Jewish Community Centers (JCC) in New York City and Long Island, Susan worked tirelessly to ensure that families and individuals living in New York City and Long Island had access to mental-health and social-service programs. She has not only been an innovative leader and unyielding advocate for individuals with disabilities, but also a dedicated leader in her community.

After graduating from Brooklyn College with a degree in speech pathology, Susan began working at JCCs with distinction. She started her career at the Staten Island Jewish Community Center as the Director of Early Childhood Development. In 1988, she moved to be the Executive Director at the Young Men's—Young Women's Hebrew Association in Westchester, New York. Then, in 1992, Susan became the Executive Director of the Sid

Jacobson Jewish Community Center in East Hills, New York, in my congressional district.

Under Susan's enthusiastic direction, Sid Jacobson has flourished. The Center dramatically expanded its facility in East Hills and also added the Bernice Jacobson Day School and Camp in Old Westbury, New York. Susan developed the Center's noted innovative programs for autistic children, single parents, and the bereaved. She helped found a first-of-its-kind program for adults with early-onset Alzheimer's and their families.

Today, the Center has a staff of over 250, an annual budget of \$12 million, and offers an extensive catalog of dynamic programs for people of all ages and abilities. The success of the Center is a direct testament to the strength of Susan's leadership and her dedication to providing community members with the best possible services.

In addition to her work at Sid Jacobson, Susan has applied her energy and vision in a variety of leadership roles in the national JCC movement. She served as a member of the Jewish Community Center Association's board of directors, was president of the Association of Jewish Center Professionals (AJCP) for the Eastern Region, and, in 2002, was named the national president of the AJCP.

Mr. Speaker, this year Susan Bender will retire having contributed immeasurably to her community. I am proud to recognize Susan and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her lifetime of tremendous work for others.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—MADELINE MINCHILLO

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, CYAC, from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.